

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, MARR, NATO

SUBJECT: FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN THE NJCEC MEETING

-- ON MARCH 20-21, 1975

REF: A) NAC/3358, B) USNATO 953

DELIVER OPENING OF BUSINESS

1. IN RESPONSE TO REF A, PLEASE INFORM CHAIRMAN NJCEC
THAT US WOULD WELCOME FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN TOTAL NICS
PROGRAM. NICS PROGRAM IS OF SUCH A NATURE THAT PARTICI-
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PANTS SHOULD SUBSCRIBE FULLY TO PROGRAM IF THEY DESIRE TO

HAVE A VOTE OR VETO. THIS MEANS THAT NEITHER FRANCE, NOR ANY OTHER NATO NATION, SHOULD HAVE OPTION OF PICKING AND CHOOSING THOSE PARTS OF NICS OF MOST INTEREST TO THEM. AS A PARTICIPANT IN AGENDA ITEMS IV THROUGH VIII, FRANCE, A NON-PARTICIPANT IN THE NICS, WOULD HAVE VETO POWER OVER SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM. ACCORDINGLY, UNLESS FRENCH DECLARE AN INTEREST TO PARTICIPATE IN TOTAL NICS PROGRAM, WE CANNOT AGREE TO THEIR FULL PARTICIPATION DURING DISCUSSION OF NICS AGENDA ITEMS AT FORTHCOMING NJCEC PLENARY.

2. HOWEVER, WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION IF ITEMS LISTED IN REF B WERE ADDED AS A SEPARATE PART OF AGENDA WITH FRENCH PARTICIPATING, AND HAVING THEM ATTEND AS OBSERVERS WHEN OTHER ITEMS (IV THROUGH VIII) OF INTEREST TO THEM ARE DISCUSSED. WE REALIZE THAT THERE MAY BE LEGITIMATE FRENCH INTERESTS IN TAKING A POSITION ON SOME ASPECTS OF AGENDA ITEMS IV THROUGH VIII, AND WE WOULD NOT OBJECT TO THEIR VOICING A POSITION DURING MEETING AS LONG AS IT IS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT ACTION ON THESE ITEMS WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO FRENCH VETO.

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